

**Western Kentucky University news for the Council on Postsecondary Education, April 2016**

For more WKU news, visit [www.wku.edu/news](http://www.wku.edu/news).

**WKU, JCTC sign joint admissions agreement**

Presidents Dr. Ty J. Handy of Jefferson Community and Technical College and Dr. Gary Ransdell of WKU signed a joint admissions agreement March 23 that paves the way for JCTC students to have an easier path to a bachelor's degree at WKU.

Jointly admitted JCTC students will have access to student services at WKU, such as cultural events, sporting events, library services, dining facilities and student organizations.

All students admitted through the program benefit from the WKU advisor assigned to them to ensure a smooth transition from JCTC to the university level, although academic advising will be a joint responsibility. WKU advisors regularly visit JCTC campuses helping to build strong relationships and successful transitions for jointly admitted students. Students will also be eligible for transfer student scholarships.

This makes the ninth such agreement with a KCTCS campus. WKU also has agreements with Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tennessee, and Ivy Tech Community College-Southwest in Evansville, Indiana. <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/03/23/wku-jctc-agreement-signed/>



*Presidents Dr. Ty J. Handy of Jefferson Community and Technical College and Dr. Gary Ransdell of WKU signed a joint admissions agreement March 23.*

**Nine WKU students recognized by Critical Language program**

Nine WKU students have been recognized by the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship Program. Five students will receive scholarships to study in intensive language programs abroad while four others were named alternates.

The CLS recipients are Brian Heath Anderson Jr. of Hodgenville; Jody Dahmer of Fisherville; Nathan Read of Belleville, Illinois; Tristan Shaw of Glasgow; and Mollie Todd of Flemingsburg.

Alternates include Sidney Ehrenborg of Fisherville; Dalton Harshbarger of Burlington; Mary Kate Hart of Princeton; and Logan Johnson of Russellville.

The CLS Program is a fully-funded overseas language and cultural immersion program sponsored by the State Department. <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/04/04/cls-2016/>

**Construction begins for Ogden College Hall**

The rebuilding of WKU's science campus continues as construction has begun on Ogden College Hall. The \$32.2 million, 80,000-square-foot building will house 36 labs for the Chemistry, Physics and Biology departments, dean's office suite and a 300-seat auditorium. A groundbreaking ceremony was held April 5. Completion is set for December 2017.

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/04/05/ogden-hall-ceremony/>



*Dean Cheryl Stevens speaks at a groundbreaking ceremony for Ogden College Hall.*



*WKU graduate student Leslie Ford*

### **WKU grad student to use Rotary Scholarship to study water issues**

WKU graduate student Leslie Ford will use a \$40,000 Rotary Foundation Global Scholarship to pursue a second master's degree in the Netherlands. Ford, a native of Centertown in Ohio County, will add to her international experiences by studying Water Services Management at the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft, Netherlands. She previously studied water issues in India and Tanzania.

In addition to making this degree a financial possibility, Ford said the Rotary scholarship

“provides a network of like-minded professionals who are committed to addressing the world's water needs. Together we can work to give back to our home communities, communities like those in India and Tanzania that hosted me, and areas of the world that have the most pressing water needs.” <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/03/18/osd-rotary-scholarship/>

### **WKU civil engineers win Ohio Valley regional**

WKU civil engineering students finished first overall in the 2016 Ohio Valley Student Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the concrete canoe and steel bridge teams advanced to national competitions. A total of 391 civil engineering students from 14 colleges and universities from Ohio, Kentucky and western Pennsylvania competed March 31-April 2 at the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.

WKU finished first overall in the concrete canoe competition for the second straight year and qualified for national competition at the University of Texas at Tyler. WKU finished third in the steel bridge competition and will compete in nationals at Brigham Young University. WKU teams also finished first in the balsa wood bridge and concrete bowling ball competitions, second in the concrete bat competition and third in the surveying competition.

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/04/07/engineering-regionals-2016/>



*Sean McCarty and Jared Claiborne compete in the concrete canoe men's slalom race.*

### **Four WKU students to study abroad on Gilman Scholarships**

Four WKU students will study abroad this summer on Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships.

Tanya Escobar of Bowling Green, Sydnie Gordon of Taylorsville, Stephen Rosado of Bowling Green and Nicholas Smith of Bowling Green were awarded scholarships of up to \$5,000 to take their studies overseas. <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/03/04/gilmans-summer2016/>

### **Gatton Academy senior named Youth Achiever of the Year**

Gatton Academy senior Rachel Cooper has been named the YMCA of Greater Louisville's 2016 Black Achievers Youth Achiever of the Year.

The Black Achievers program is a multiracial effort to help all teens of color develop to their fullest potential. Cooper was honored at the 37th annual Black Achievers Celebration on Feb. 20. She earned this prestigious honor by going above and beyond the standard requirements to graduate from high school. <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/03/24/gatton-cooper-award/>